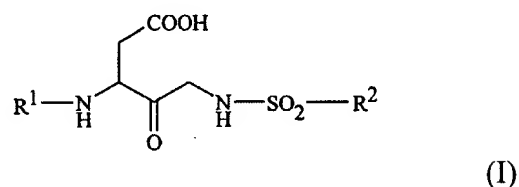
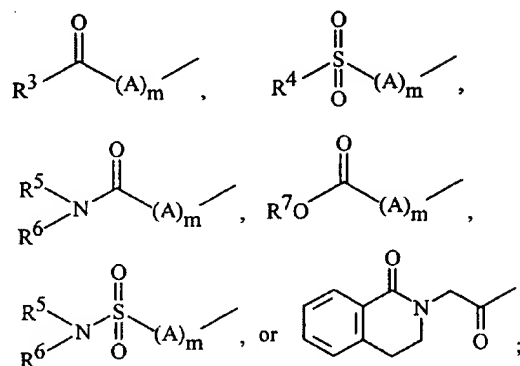


Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A compound of Formula I



wherein R¹ is



R³ is hydrogen,
 C₁-C₆ alkyl,
 -(CH₂)_n aryl, or
 -(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R⁴ is C₁-C₆ alkyl,
 -(CH₂)_n aryl, or
 -(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently hydrogen,
 C₁-C₆ alkyl,
 -(CH₂)_n aryl, or
 -(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R^7 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl,
-(CH_2) $_n$ aryl, or
-(CH_2) $_n$ heteroaryl;

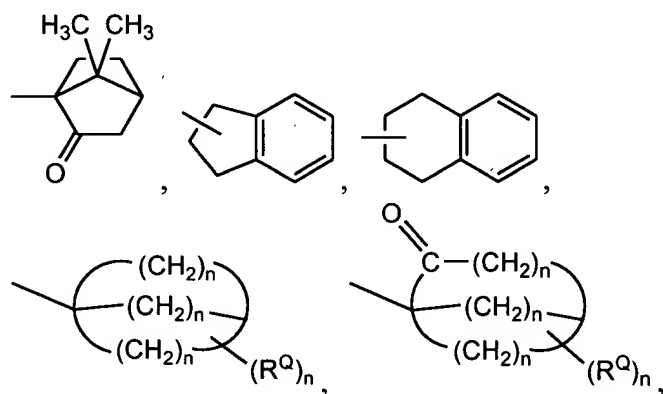
each n is independently 0 to 6;

each m is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

A is alanine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, glycine, tyrosine, serine, threonine, tryptophan, cysteine, methionine, valine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, arginine, or histidine;

R^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-Z$; and

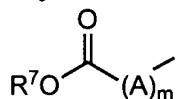
Z is aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl,



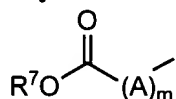
fluorenyl, substituted fluorenyl, substituted aryl,
substituted heteroaryl, or substituted cycloalkyl,

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R¹ is

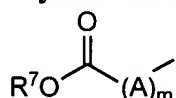


3. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R¹ is



m is 0, and R⁷ is -(CH₂)_n aryl.

4. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R¹ is



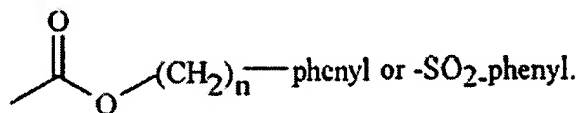
m is 0, and R⁷ is -CH₂ aryl.

5. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R² is -(CH₂)_n aryl.

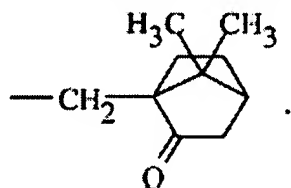
6. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim 5 wherein aryl is phenyl or naphthyl.

7. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R² is -(CH₂)_n-cycloalkyl.

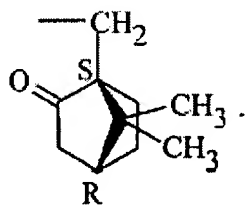
8. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R¹ is



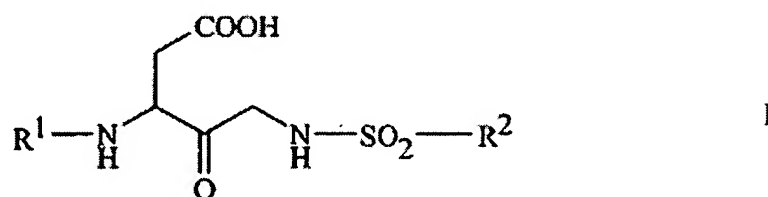
9. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R² is



10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim ~~1~~ 19 wherein R² is

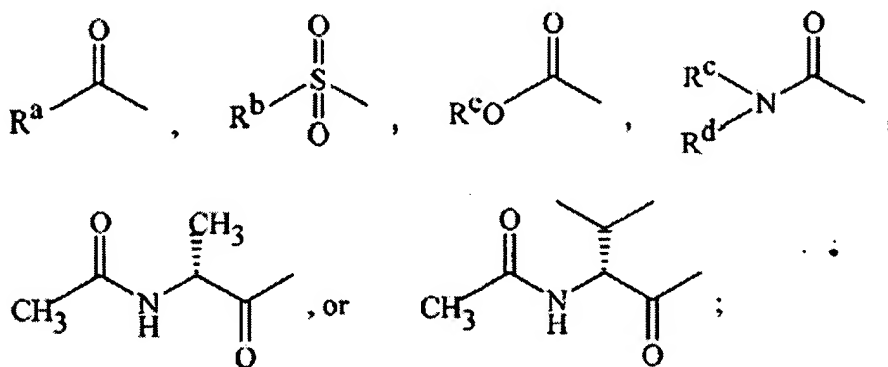


11. (Original) A compound of the Formula I



wherein R² is -CH₂CH₂-aryl, -CH₂-cycloalkyl, -CH₂CH₂-cycloalkyl, or -CH₂CH₂-heteroaryl;

R¹ is



R^a is -(CH₂)_n aryl or -(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

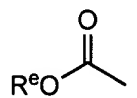
R^c is -CH₂ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

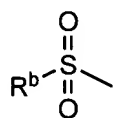
R^e is $-\text{CH}_2$ aryl or $-\text{CH}_2$ heteroaryl;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~11~~ 26 wherein R^1 is



13. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~11~~ 26 wherein R^1 is



14. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim ~~11~~ 26 wherein R^e is $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ aryl.

15. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim 14 wherein aryl is phenyl or naphthyl.

16. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim 13 wherein R^b is aryl.

17. (Currently Amended) The method A compound according to claim 16 wherein is aryl is phenyl.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of The compounds:

3-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-5-(2-phenylmethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

3-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-5-(3-phenyl-propane-1-sulfonylamino)-
pentanoic acid;

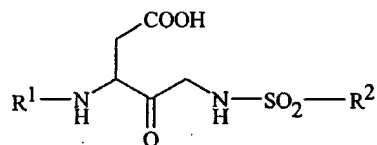
3-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-5-phenyl-methanesulfonyl-amino-pentanoic acid;

5-Benzenesulfonylamino-3-benzoyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

3-Benzoyloxycarbonylarnino-5-methanesulfonylamino-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

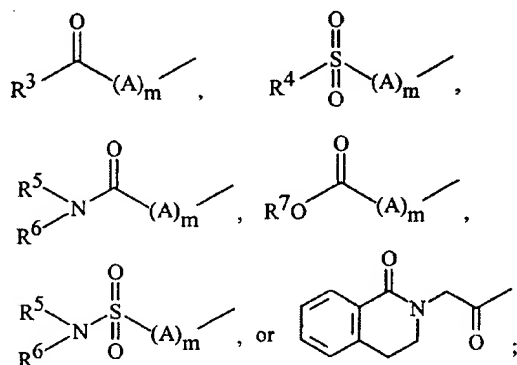
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(naphthalene-1-sulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(2-cyclohexyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(2-naphthalen-1-yl-ethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo [2.2.1]hept-1-(R)-ylmethane sulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(indan-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(9-fluoro-9H-fluoren-9-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzylloxycarbonylamino-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo [2.2.1]hept-1-(S)-ylmethane sulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-(2-Acetylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-(S)-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-(2-Acetylamino-propylamino)-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-(S)-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-oxo-isoquinoline-2-yl)-acetanino-5-benzenesulfonyl amino-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
(S)-5-(Bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-3-[2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-acetylamino]-pentanoic acid;
(S)-4-Oxo-3-[2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-acetylamino]-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid; and
4-Oxo-3-[2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-acetylamino]-5-phenylmethane sulfonylamino-pentanoic acid;
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A method of inhibiting interleukin-1 β converting enzyme, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of interleukin-1 β converting enzyme a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~claim 1~~
Formula I



(I)

wherein R¹ is



R³ is hydrogen,

C₁-C₆ alkyl,

-(CH₂)_n aryl, or

-(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R⁴ is C₁-C₆ alkyl,

-(CH₂)_n aryl, or

-(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently hydrogen,

C₁-C₆ alkyl,

-(CH₂)_n aryl, or

-(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R⁷ is C₁-C₆ alkyl,

-(CH₂)_n aryl, or

-(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

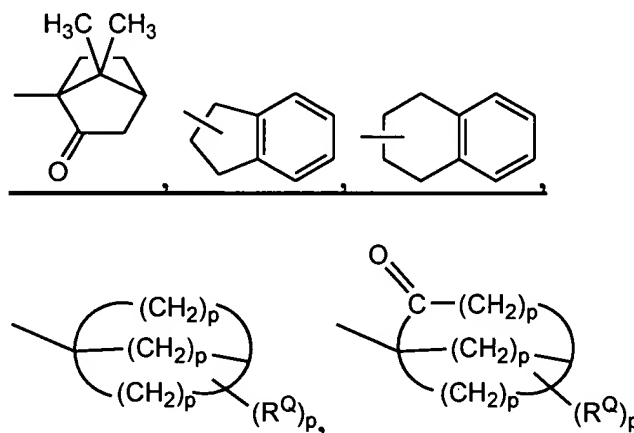
each n is independently 0 to 6;

each m is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

A is alanine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, glycine,
tyrosine, serine, threonine, tryptophan, cysteine, methionine,
valine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid,
arginine, or histidine;

R² is -(CH₂)_n-Z; and

Z is aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl,



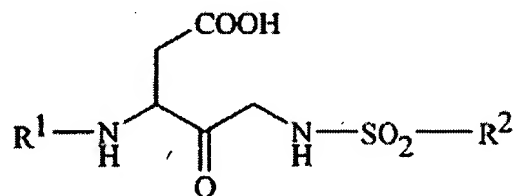
fluorenyl, substituted fluorenyl, substituted aryl,
substituted heteroaryl, or substituted cycloalkyl,

each R^Q is independently hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

and each p is independently 1, 2, or 3;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

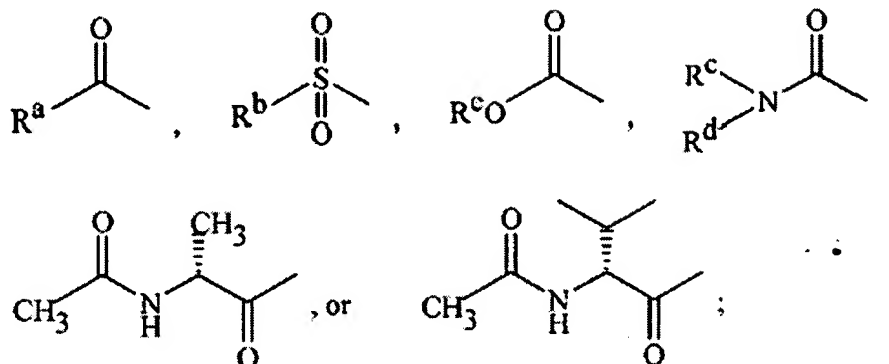
20. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting Caspase-4, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of Caspase-4 inhibition a Caspase-4 inhibiting amount of a compound of **Formula I of claim 19**.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 19 wherein of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising to a said patient had having a stroke or is having had a stroke a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1; or said patient has an inflammatory disease, septic shock, reperfusion injury, Alzheimer's disease, or shigellosis.~~
22. (Original) A method of treating inflammatory diseases, the method comprising administering to a patient having an inflammatory disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~22~~ **21** wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis **or inflammatory bowel syndrome**.
24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the inflammatory disease inflammatory bowel disease.
25. (Original) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition that comprises a compound of claim 1.
26. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting interleukin-1 β converting enzyme, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of interleukin-1 β converting enzyme a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~claim 11~~ **Formula I**



wherein R² is -CH₂CH₂-aryl, -CH₂-cycloalkyl, -CH₂CH₂-cycloalkyl, or

-CH₂CH₂-heteroaryl;

R¹ is



R^a is -(CH₂)_n aryl or -(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

R^c is -CH₂ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

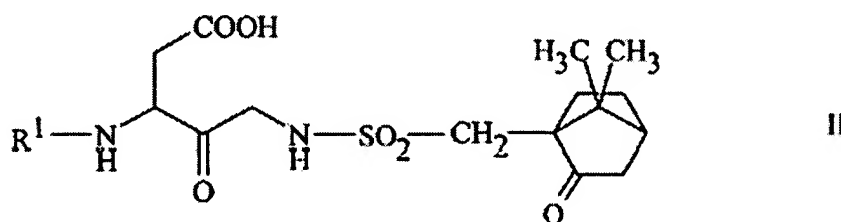
R^e is -CH₂ aryl or -CH₂ heteroaryl;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting Caspase-4, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of Caspase-4 inhibition a Caspase-4 inhibiting amount of a compound of **Formula I of claim 11** **26**.
28. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method according to claim 26 wherein of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising administering to a said patient had having a stroke or is having had a stroke a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11; or said patient has an inflammatory disease, septic shock, reperfusion injury, Alzheimer's disease, or shigellosis.~~

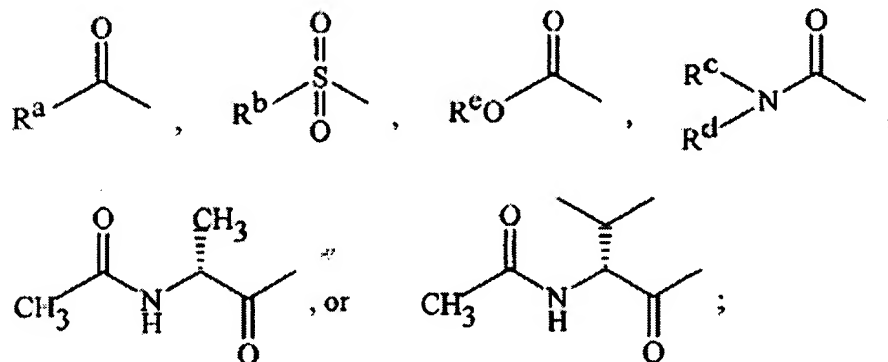
29. **(Original)** A method of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising administering to a patient having had a stroke or having a stroke a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.
30. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The A~~ method of claim ~~29~~ **28** wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis or inflammatory bowel disease.
31. **(Original)** The method of claim 29 wherein the inflammatory disease is inflammatory bowel disease.
32. **(Original)** A pharmaceutically acceptable composition that comprises a compound of claim 11.
33. **(Original)** A method of treating septic shock, the method comprising administering to a patient having septic shock a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
34. **(Original)** A method of treating septic shock, the method comprising administering to a patient having septic shock a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.
35. **(Original)** A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method of comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
36. **(Original)**) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method of comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.
37. **(Original)** A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method of comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
38. **(Original)** A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method of comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

39. **(Original)** A method of treating shigellosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having shigellosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
40. **(Original)** A method of treating shigellosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having shigellosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.
41. **(Original)** A compound of the Formula II



wherein

R¹ is



R^a is $-(CH_2)_n$ -aryl or $-(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

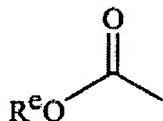
R^c is $-CH_2$ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

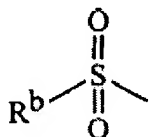
R^e is $-\text{CH}_2$ aryl or $-\text{CH}_2$ heteroaryl; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

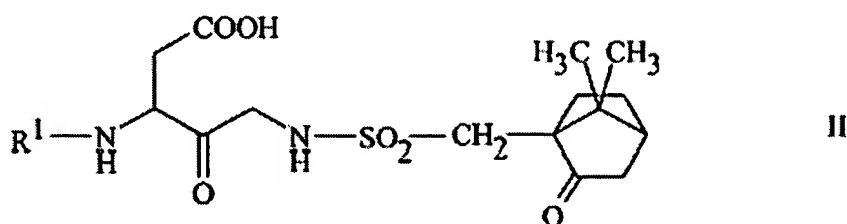
42. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim ~~41~~ 48 wherein R^1 is



43. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim ~~41~~ 48 wherein R^1 is

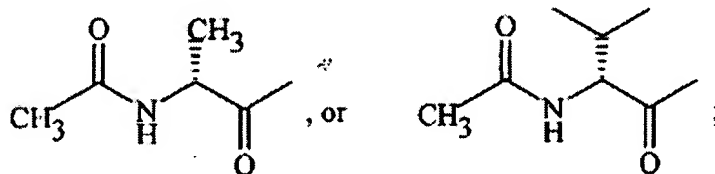
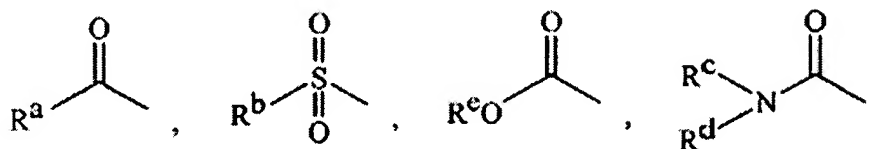


44. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim ~~41~~ 48 wherein R^e is $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ aryl.
45. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim ~~41~~ 48 wherein aryl is phenyl or naphthyl.
46. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim ~~41~~ 48 wherein R^b is aryl.
47. (Currently Amended) ~~The method A compound~~ according to claim 46 wherein is aryl is phenyl.
48. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting interleukin-1 β converting enzyme, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of interleukin-1 β converting enzyme a therapeutically effective amount of a A compound of the Formula II



wherein

R¹ is



R^a is -(CH₂)_n-aryl or -(CH₂)_n heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

R^c is -CH₂ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R^e is -CH₂ aryl or -CH₂ heteroaryl; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

49. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting Caspase-4, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of Caspase-4 inhibition a Caspase-4 inhibiting amount of a compound of **Formula I of claim 41-48**.
50. (Currently Amended) ~~The A-method of claim 48 wherein of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising administering to a said patient had having a stroke or is having had a stroke a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41;~~ **or said patient has an inflammatory disease, septic shock, reperfusion injury, Alzheimer's disease, or shigellosis.**
51. (Original) A method of treating inflammatory diseases, the method comprising administering to a patient having an inflammatory disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.
52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~51-50~~ wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis **or inflammatory bowel disease.**
53. (Original) A method of treating septic shock, the method comprising administering to a patient having septic shock a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.
54. (Original) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.
55. (Original) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.
56. (Original) A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method of comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.
57. (Original) A method of treating shigellosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having shigellosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

58. (Currently Amended) The **method according to claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of the** compounds:

- 3-[2-(2-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;
- 3-[2-(2-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-4-carboxy-butyrylamino)-3-methyl-butyrylamino]-4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;
- 3-{2-[4-Carboxy-2-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-butyrylamino]-3-methyl-butyryl-amino}-4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;
- 3-[2-(2-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino) propionylamino]-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
- 3-[2-(2-Benzoyloxycarbonylamino-4-carboxy-butyrylamino)-3-methyl-butyrylamino]-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
- 3-{2-[4-Carboxy-2-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-butyrylamino]-3-methyl-butyrylamino}-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
- 3-(2-{2-[2-Acetylamino-3-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propionylamino]-4-carboxy-butyrylamino}-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid; and
- 3-(2-{2-[2-Acetylamino-3-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propionylamino]-4-carboxy-butyrylamino}-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.